

Revitalizing Rushville: Trash/Recycling Collection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is automated trash collection?

Automated trash collection is a common system used by many municipalities today. Residents will be supplied with one 96 gallon black-lid household trash tote, which the resident wheels to the curb or alley on their specific collection day. In line with the delivery of these new totes, Rushville's trash trucks will be retrofitted with hydraulic arms for more controlled lift and placement. Operated by members of the Street Department, the arms lift the tote into the back of the trash truck where the tote lid drops open and the trash is emptied.

Why are we utilizing automated trash collection?

To improve the effectiveness of the trash collection service, reduce injuries and free up personnel to handle other priorities within the Street Department and ultimately reduce/control costs.

Why was this automated system chosen now with economic shortfalls?

Rushville's trash trucks are 10+ years old with high mileage and service issues so retrofitting them with the hydraulic arms extends their use. Freeing up personnel to handle other priorities within the Department is an effective use of resources. The collection process is quicker with the automated system and the risk of injuries is greatly reduced.

What are additional benefits?

"Stay-on" lids attached to the new totes reduce windblown litter and also help prevent stray and wild animals from breaking into trash bags, thereby improving the appearance of our neighborhoods and the City as a whole.

Why was the 96-gallon size chosen?

We realize one size does not fit all but national studies indicate a 96-gallon trash tote (the size of three regular size trash cans) is adequate for an average family. If residents want to use the smaller 64-gallon tote, they simply need to complete an online request form found on the Street Department section of the City's Web site to exchange the totes.

How many totes can I have at my property?

Each household receives one tote that stays with the residence if the homeowner or renter moves. Numbers are identified on the front of the tote and posted in the utility billing system to your address. Additional totes can be purchased from the City of Rushville. If you have a tote brand or compatible tote, you may use it as your secondary tote for extra trash if it is compatible with the automated truck. If you have questions regarding your secondary tote, please call the Street Department at 932-2575 for clarification.

What was the City of Rushville's cost to purchase totes?

The City of Rushville was able to purchase the totes through a Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA) that was established by the Indiana Department of Administration. This agreement ensures cities and towns throughout the State of Indiana can purchase Tote brand trash totes at the lowest possible price, which is similar to a bulk purchasing agreement. City officials paid approximately \$75 for each 96-gallon tote and \$70 for each 64-gallon tote.

How much does it cost for me to purchase an additional tote?

Additional trash totes can be purchased for household trash for \$75 for a 96-gallon tote and \$70 for a 64-gallon tote.

How can I get my damaged tote repaired? Will I be charged to repair it?

Complete the online form on the Street Department page of the City Web site to report a damaged or lost tote. We will repair your tote at your residence if possible. Totes are under warranty for ten years and may have to be exchanged if they cannot be fixed or repaired free of charge.

What if my trash tote is stolen?

Each household receives one trash tote. If stolen, resident must file a report with the Rushville Police Department. Upon verification from BPD, the City will replace the container free of charge.

What should I do with my extra bagged trash that doesn't fit in my tote?

All bagged trash must be in a tote. If you have excess trash, you can purchase an additional tote, hold the excess trash until the next scheduled pickup, or take it yourself to a dumpster site or the transfer station.

If you are experiencing an overflow of trash, you are encouraged to start recycling. You can request a recycling tote by calling the Street Department at 932-2575. Fridays are community-wide recycling collection days where your recyclables are collected curbside.

Where do I place my trash tote and recycle tote on collection day?

Trash totes should be placed at the corner of the driveway, which keeps the tote away from parked cars and accessible to the automated truck. If this is not possible, residents should place their tote as close to their driveway as possible.

If you do not have a driveway at the front of your home, you should place your tote directly in front of your home in a location that is as far from parked cars as possible. If you cannot place your tote away from cars due to residential parking, please place it as close to the curb as possible so when residents leave for their daily activities, it is accessible to the automated truck.

For trash collection that happens in alleys, please place your tote in a location that is away from other large items so the tote is accessible to the automated truck. If you have a mailbox on the street, be sure to allow enough room for the mail carrier to pull beside your mailbox to deliver your mail so the tote does not interfere with your mail delivery or the automated truck arm.

Your recycling tote will be picked up on Fridays and should be placed in the same location as you put your trash tote.

What if there are cars parked on my street?

In general, streets in residential neighborhoods have the most parked cars on them from approximately 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Accordingly, areas of town where cars typically park on the streets will have their trash picked up after 8:00 a.m.

What should I do with large items or appliances that can't fit in my Tote?

Heavy trash item collection happens in the spring and fall. Check the City's Web site: www.cityofrushville.in.gov for dates.

Which way should my tote face to be picked up?

The tote lid should open towards the street. There is an arrow on the lid that shows which way to face the tote. The bar in front should face the street. The wheels and handles will be in back in relation to the street.

Where should I store my tote?

Totes must be removed from the street after pickup. They can be stored at the side or in the back of the house, in the alley, garage, or other location but not on the street where they are picked up.

What should I do if my trash tote is too big for me to handle?

If you feel that you need a smaller trash tote, please complete the online form on the Street Department's section of the City's Web site to request a 64-gallon tote.

What should I do if I am physically unable to take my trash tote to the street?

Residents with physical challenges that make them unable to move their trash tote to the street or alley may contact the Street Department at 932-2575 for special assistance. People who request assistance will have their container marked and recorded and a staff member will remove the trash from beside or behind your home to the street.

What do we do with trash on a scheduled holiday and how do we know what days those are?

If your regularly scheduled trash collection day falls on an observed City of Rushville holiday, collection services shall be provided on the next day. When two holidays are observed consecutively such as Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving the regularly scheduled trash collection services for the first collection holiday will be the day before the first holiday and the second holiday trash services shall be provided on the next work day following the second holiday.

Check the City's Web site: www.cityofrushville.in.gov for a list of observed holidays and the altered collection schedule dates or call the Street Department at: 932-2575.

MISCELLANEOUS**How do I get my limbs picked up?**

The Street Department provides a chipper service as an extra service provided as time permits. Street Department crews do not accept anything that was done for hire or entire trees that have been taken down unless they came down as a result of a storm. As a guideline, anything estimated to take longer than 15 minutes to chip is too large. All limbs to be chipped should be placed as close to the alley or street as possible and be easily accessible. At no time should limbs be placed in the street or alley. Limbs also should be clear of any trash or other debris that may cause damage to the chipper.